



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:
Loreeta Canton, Public Information Officer
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.1665
E-mail: lcanton@nd.gov

New Forensic Examiner Joins State Health Department

BISMARCK, N.D. – Dr. William Massello III has joined the North Dakota Department of Health as the state forensic examiner, according to State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D.

Dr. Massello's first day with the department was July 2. Previously, he was the assistant chief medical examiner with the Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. In that role, Massello supervised 11 employees and provided medical examiner services in the Western Regional Medical Examiner's Office in Roanoke, Va. He also provided supervision and consultation to 120 local medical examiners throughout the western part of Virginia.

"Dr. Massello has more than 30 years of forensic examiner experience," Dwelle said. "We are very fortunate to have someone with his expertise providing medical examiner services to the state of North Dakota."

A Los Angeles, Calif., native, Massello's professional experience includes teaching forensic pathology at the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine and lecturing in legal medicine at the Medical College of Virginia. He also served as a general medical officer with the U.S. Army in Europe. He is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners, the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honorary Society and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Massello also is the author of numerous forensic science publications.

Massello earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, Texas. His postdoctoral training includes a fellowship in forensic pathology at the Medical College of Virginia, residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at UCLA Medical Center, and internship in surgery at UCLA Medical Center.

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600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

The role of the North Dakota state forensic examiner is to provide medical examiner services to county coroners and law enforcement officials in the investigation of sudden and unexpected deaths in the state. Once a case has been referred to the state forensic examiner, the body is brought to Bismarck, N.D. Services provided include autopsy or examination of the body, photographic documentation, toxicological analysis, collection of evidence, follow-up with investigating agencies and certification of the death certificate.

The previous state forensic examiner, Dr. George Mizell, resigned in December 2006. Massello will be paid a yearly salary of \$160,008 as North Dakota's state forensic examiner.

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Please note: A photograph of Dr. Massello is available for downloading at www.ndhan.gov/media/media.

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